

Appln No. 09/867,180  
Amendment dated June 15, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5 and 9, and amend claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10, 11 and 13 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method for responding to [[a site]] access ~~in which to~~ a service provider site for providing contents via a communication network in which the service provider site transmits, when an access request is made from a requesting terminal of an affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site, contents of the service provider site to the requesting terminal ~~in response to the access request, the service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites affiliated with the service provider site~~, the method comprising

5

10 the steps of:

storing user verification data and an identifier of the affiliation site, which is affiliated with the service provider site, in the service provider site;

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15 transmitting an access request from the affiliation site to  
the service provider site with the identifier of the affiliation  
site when the affiliation site receives an access request from  
the requesting terminal;

determining whether ~~or not~~ the access request is made via  
~~one of~~ the affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site based on whether the access  
20 request includes the identifier of the ~~one of the~~ affiliation  
~~[[sites]]~~ site;

changing a part of the contents to be transmitted to the  
requesting terminal to predetermined information corresponding to  
the ~~one of the~~ affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site when the access request  
25 is made via the ~~one of the~~ affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site;

transmitting the contents including the predetermined  
information to the requesting terminal ~~[[to wait]]~~ and waiting  
for a user verification request from the requesting terminal ~~[[to~~  
start]] before starting service provision; and

30 storing user information of the requesting terminal relating  
to the service provision into a session control table relating to  
the ~~one of~~ the affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

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Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

accumulating a service usage time of the service provider site when the access request is made via ~~one of~~ the affiliation sites; and

determining a charge based on the accumulated service usage time every predetermined period of time and conducting a charging procedure to an enterprise of ~~one of~~ the affiliation sites.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). A service information providing method in which a service provider site provides via a communication network to a user terminal of an affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site, a service item corresponding to an access request from the user terminal, the access request including an identifier of the affiliation site, ~~the service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites affiliated with the service provider site~~, the method comprising the steps of:

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- 10        storing an identifier of the affiliation site affiliated  
with the service provider site in the service provider site,  
         providing to the user terminal a predetermined ~~contents~~  
content corresponding to [[a]] the service item in response to  
the access request ~~designated by the user terminal;~~
- 15        receiving [[a]] response information relating to the  
provided ~~contents~~ content from the user terminal via the  
communication network and determining whether the ~~response~~  
~~information~~ access request is transmitted from ~~one of~~ the  
affiliation [[sites]] site based on whether the access request  
20 includes the identifier of the ~~one of the~~ affiliation [[sites]]  
site when a predetermined processing is to be performed with  
regard to the response information; and
- performing the predetermined processing based on a result of  
the determination.

         Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim  
6, wherein said predetermined processing is a processing for  
preparing an electronic mail in response to the response  
information and transmitting the mail via the communication  
5 network to another terminal which is different from the user  
terminal, the electronic mail being transmitted to a terminal

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belonging to the ~~one of the~~ affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site when the  
response information is transmitted from the ~~one of the~~  
affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site and to a terminal belonging to the  
10 service provider site when the response information is not  
transmitted from the ~~one of the specific sites~~ affiliation site.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture  
comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable  
program code means embodied therein ~~[[and]]~~ for responding to ~~[[a~~  
site]] access ~~in which~~ to a service provider site for providing  
5 contents via a communication network in which the service  
provider site transmits, when an access request is made from a  
requesting terminal of an affiliation site affiliated with the  
service provider site, contents of the service provider site to  
the requesting terminal ~~in response to the access request, the~~  
10 ~~service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites~~  
~~affiliated with the service provider site~~, the computer readable  
program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for storing user  
verification data and an identifier of the affiliation site,  
15 which is affiliated with the service provider site;

computer readable program code means for transmitting an  
access request from the affiliation site to the service provider

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site with an identifier of the affiliation site when the  
affiliation site receives an access request from the requesting  
20 terminal;

computer readable program code means for determining whether  
~~or not~~ the access request ~~from the requesting terminal~~ is made  
via ~~one of~~ the affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site based on whether the  
access request includes the identifier of the ~~one of the~~  
25 affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site;

computer readable program code means for changing a part of  
the contents to be transmitted to the requesting terminal to  
predetermined information corresponding to the ~~one of the~~  
affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site when the access request is made via  
30 the ~~one of the~~ affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site;

computer readable program code means for transmitting the  
contents including the predetermined information to the  
requesting terminal ~~to wait~~ and waiting for a user verification  
request from the requesting terminal ~~to start~~ before starting  
35 service provision; and

computer readable program code means for storing user  
information of the requesting terminal relating to the service  
provision into a session control table relating to the ~~one of the~~  
affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site.

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Claim 9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein ~~[[and]]~~ for providing, by a service provider site to a user terminal of an affiliation site  
5 affiliated with the service provider site via a communication network, a service item corresponding to an access request from the user terminal, the access request including an identifier of the affiliation site, ~~the service provider site storing identifiers of affiliation sites affiliated with the service~~  
10 ~~provider site,~~ the computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for storing an identifier of the affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site in the service provider site;

15 computer readable program code means for providing to the user terminal predetermined ~~[[contents]]~~ content corresponding to ~~[[a]]~~ the service item in response to the access request ~~designated by the user terminal;~~

20 computer readable program code means for receiving response information relating to the provided ~~contents~~ content from the user terminal via the communication network and determining

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whether the ~~response information access request~~ is transmitted from ~~one of~~ the affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site based on whether the access request includes the identifier of the ~~one of the~~  
25 affiliation ~~[[sites]]~~ site when a predetermined processing is to be performed with regard to the response information; and  
computer readable program code means for performing the predetermined processing based on a result of the determination.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A method of providing a home page of a service provider site and a home page of an affiliation site affiliated with the service provider via a communication network, the method comprising:

5 storing an identifier of the affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site in the service provider site;  
receiving, by the affiliation site, a request for the home page of the service provider from a user ~~[[by]]~~ of the affiliation site;  
10 transferring, by the affiliation site, the request for the home page of the service provider to the service provider site with an identifier of ~~[[by]]~~ the affiliation site;  
determining, by the service provider site, whether the user is a member of the affiliation site based on whether the request



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15 ~~includes the identifier of the affiliation site by the service  
provider site; and~~

transmitting [[a]] the home page of the service provider to  
the user by the service provider site when the user is a member  
of the affiliation site.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented). The method according to  
claim 11, wherein the service provider site receives the request  
with an identifier indicating that the user is a member of the  
affiliation site and determines whether the user is a member of  
5 the affiliation site based on the identifier.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim  
12, wherein the service provider site modifies the home page of  
the service provider site based on the identifier of the  
affiliation site when it is determined that the user is a member  
5 of the affiliation site.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The method according to  
claim 12, wherein the service provider site updates charging  
information for the user and charges the affiliation site when it  
is determined that the user is a member of the affiliation site.

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Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claims 16 (Cancelled).